

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 NSCE-00
SSO-00 /022 W

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O R 081111Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2767
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 8868

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (CHALES DIGGS)
SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS

REF: STATE 182259

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DESIRE CODEL DIGGS TO MEET OFFICIALS AND VIEW PROJECTS OUTSIDE LAGOS IN COURSE OF ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD STRONGLY DISCOURAGE CONGRESSMAN DIGGS IN THIS REGARD FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

-- AS IS EVIDENT FROM SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE (SEPTEL) FULL ROUND OF ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BEGINNING AUGUST 20 AND ENDING AUGUST 27.

-- WE UNDERSTAND EACH STATE EXPECTED TO SEND DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE AND THUS MANY KEY OFFICIALS MAY BE UNAVAILABLE IN HO E REGIONS.

-- WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF TRIP TO KANO, SCHEDULED AUGUST 27, HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN VISITORS EXPECTED TO BE ACTIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN CONFERENCE SESSIONS THROUGHOUT WEEK. BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERACTION WITH BOTH NIGERIAN AND FOREIGN DELEGATES WILL BE AT CONFERENCE DURING WEEK.

-- WE EXPECT NIGERIAN TRANSPORTATION, PARTICULARLY AIR (AND AIRPORT CONDITIONS), TO BE EVEN MORE UNCERTAIN THAN NORMAL. WE ALSO EXPECT HEAVILY INCREASED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS TO BE IN

EFFECT IN LAGOS AND THROUGHOUT COUNTRY DURING CONFERENCE.
SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD SERIOUSLY IMPEDE MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY
IN AND OUT OF LAGOS.

-- EMBASSY RESOURCES BOTH IN PERSONNEL AND TRANSPORTATION
WILL BE FULLY COMMITTED IN LAGOS ITSELF DURING PERIODS OF
CONFERENCE. ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES OUTSIDE LAGOS WOULD ADVERSELY
AFFECT EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT OTHER U.S.
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

-- FINALLY, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN MEA CLEARENCE TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF
ANY TRAVEL. IF CODEL WISHES TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE LAGOS, DETAILED
SCHEDULE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO MEA ASAP AND MIGHT BE CANCELLED
AT LAST MINUTE FOR SECURITY REASONS.

2. THUS, WE BELIEVE CODEL TRAVEL IN NIGERIA OUTSIDE LAGOS
DURING CONFERENCE WOULD BE LOGISTICALLY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT
AND WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY DETRACT FROM CODEL OPPORTUNITY TO
PARTICIPATE FULLY IN CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, IF
CODEL, HAVING BEEN APPRISED OF SITUATION, CONTINUES TO DESIRE
TRAVEL OUTSIDE LAGOS, WE WOULD SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT
CODEL GO TO KANO ON AUGUST 27 WITH OTHER CONFEREES AND
THEN UTILIZE REMAINING DAYS FOR REGIONAL VISITS.

3. THERE ARE OTHER TRIP OPTIONS FEATURING VISITS TO
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IMPORTANT PROJECTS IN WHICH US INVOLVED. EXAMPLE:
(A) OFFSHORE OIL PRODUCTION AREA OF AMERICAN PETROLEUM COMPANY,
CROSS RIVER STATE; (B) CONSTRUCTION SITE OF NEW MAJOR PIPELINE
BEING BUILT BY US COMPANY, RIVERS STATE; (C) GIANT AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN WHICH US FIRM CONVERTING HUNDREDS OF
MILES OF BUSHLAND INTO MODERN AGRICULTURAL PLANTATION, BENDEL
STATE; (D) HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION BY US FIRM, ONDO STATE,
COMBINED WITH INSPECTION OF AID-FINANCED FAMILY HEALTH AND
PLANNING CENTER, OYO STATE. THESE TRIPS WOULD ORIGINATE FROM
LAGOS; OIL FIELD TRIP WOULD BE MADE BY COMPANY PLANE WHILE
OTHER JOURNEYS WOULD BE BY CAR OR BY COMBINATION COMMERCIAL PLANE/
CAR. RE OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES HAVING US PARTICIPATION, TWO COULD
BE EXAMINED WITHOUT LEAVING LAGOS AREA. TOWARD THIS END WE COULD
ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF LAGOS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR
AND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

4. WE FURTHER BELIEVE TRAVEL TO LOme DURING WEEK OF CONFERENCE
WILL BE UNCERTAIN BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS IN
LAGOS AND RECOMMEND CODEL SCHEDULE LOme STOP BEFORE OR AFTER
NIGERIA VISIT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE CODEL DESIRES
SAP.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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